Setting up of International Public Sector Unit to Protect Ecology Heritage

196. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the conference held in memory of the former Prime Minister late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, a proposal was mooted for the setting up of an International Public Sector Unit, to protect ecology and heritage; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what are the details of the decision, if any, taken for setting up such a Unit?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No such proposal has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Bank Dacoity in Amritsar

197. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a daring bank dacoity took place at the Bank of Maharashtra branch situated at M. M. Malaviya Road in Amritsar on or about January 9, 1989, in which the criminals decamped with 44 lockers containing valuables worth over one crore of rupees and Rs. 63,000/- in cash;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to apprehend the culprits and bring them to book?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Bank of Maharashtra has reported that a burglary took place at its Amritsar branch after closing of the branch at 3.00 P.M. on Saturday, the 7th January, 1989 and before opening of the branch at 9.00 A.M. on Monday, the 9th January, 1989. The Bank has further reported that the culprits made away with cash to the tune of Rs. 67,289.65 from the safe. The culprits also cut open 44 safe deposit lockers kept in the strong room, the contents of which are not known to the bank. However, as per the representations received so far from the locker-holders it is estimated that valuables and paper securities worth Rs. 35 lakhs have been stolen.

(c) Bank of Maharashtra has lodged an FIR with the local police and the matter is being investigated by them.

Kisan Credit Card and Kisan Kshema Loan Scheme

198. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kisan Credit Card Scheme and Kisan Kshema Loan Scheme have been recently launched at Mangalore;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the facilities provided to the farmers under these schemes;

(c) what are the names of the other States in which such schemes have been launched/proposed to be launched by Government; and

(d) to what extent these schemes are being utilised by the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC

AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The public sector banks were advised by the Government in April, 1988 to consider launching of credit card scheme for farmers on the lines of the Dena Krishi Sakh Patra (DKSP). The credit card, among other things would provide following facilities:

(i) It will enable a card holder to secure production credit instantly.

(ii) It will dispense with procedural formalities such as making applications, furnishing land records certificates and documentation for every agricultural season.

(iii) It will also dispense with the necessity to carry cash by the farmer.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per information available following banks have introduced credit card scheme for farmers in areas indicated against each of them: (1) Dena Bank—all over India; (2) Canara Bank—through all its rural branches; (3) Andhra Bank—initially in Andhra Pradesh only; (4) Punjab National Bank—in Punjab and West Uttar Pradesh; (5) Indian Overseas Bank—Trichy, Tanjore Districts of Tamil Nadu and East Godavary district of Andhra Pradesh; and (6) Syndicate Bank—in seven lead districts namely (i) South Kanara, (ii) Belgaum, (iii) Nellore, (iv) Nizamabad, (v) Meerut, (vi) Ghaziabad and (vii) Muradabad. Thus Mangalore which is in South Kanara district of Karnataka has already been covered by the Scheme.

(d) The Scheme has been introduced by the banks on a pilot basis very recently and it is too early to make any assessment of its utilisation by farmers.

Consignment Tax

199. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have requested the Central Government to impose consignment tax to generate State resources as also to generate resources of the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have since taken any decision in the matter; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay in taking a decision on this vital issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) Various State Governments had reported to the Central Government about large scale avoidance of Central Sales Tax through the transfer of consignments from one State to another and had suggested enactment of legislation for levy of consignment tax. Accordingly, the Constitution was amended through the Constitution (46th Amendment) Act, 1982 to enable, *inter-alia*, the levy of tax on inter-State consignment of goods. Various issues connected with the proposed consignment tax were discussed in the Chief Minister's Conferences held from time to time. The last conference held on 9th and 10th February, 1989, approved by consensus the proposal for levy of consignment tax and various modalities connected thereto.